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The Problem :

A lot of people hunt deer during the November gun season on public land, particularly the Kettle Moraine Northern and Southern Unit State Forests. The density of hunters is high and increasing on these lands. It is all too common for deer drives to occur on these same lands. The group of hunters included in the drive have no idea where other uninvolved hunters are located in their path. It is already well known that even well-organized drives are dangerous. This danger is further increased by the unknown presence of these other hunters.

In addition, after a drive is conducted in an area there is little possibility that another hunter has a chance of seeing a deer that day. The hunting opportunity for this hunter has been ruined. This situation occurs very frequently. Hunting opportunities should be the same for all individuals on public land.

It is already known that deer densities on public land are lower than densities on adjacent private land during the November deer hunt. Deer drives further push deer off the public land for shelter on the private land. The hunting opportunity for the individual hunter will be decreased again.

Whereas, deer drives on high density use public lands are very unsafe.

Whereas, deer drives limit the hunting opportunity of other hunters not involved in the drive.

Whereas, deer drives push deer off of public land to inaccessible private land, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Dane County on April 10, 2006, recommends that the Department of Natural Resources take action to correct this situation by introducing rule changes that eliminate group deer drives on high-density public land like the Kettle Moraine State Forests.

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